

Week Ending Friday, May 17, 2002

**Proclamation 7559—National
Defense Transportation Day and
National Transportation Week, 2002**
May 10, 2002

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

The importance of America's transportation system became evident to all Americans on September 11, 2001. Airliners were diverted, airports closed, and travelers were stranded for days as transportation systems across the country were disrupted. In the aftermath of September 11, the men and women in the transportation industry have helped restore function and trust to a system that was traumatized. Today, Americans and America's goods and services are being more safely moved to their destinations, as our communities continue the process of important restructuring.

We have helped secure our transportation system with the passage of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act, which greatly enhanced the protections for America's passengers and goods. And we are determined to ensure that Americans have the transportation system and mobility that is necessary for a vibrant economy and meaningful quality of life.

We live in a time of unprecedented travel, when goods and services, regardless of origin, can be available in a short amount of time. Thanks to imagination, innovation, and investment in transportation, we can safely commute to work, receive overnight mail, buy fresh fruit and vegetables, and travel with relative ease to destinations around the world. We also continue to make progress in developing a transportation system that offers choices and protects the environment through cleaner, more fuel-efficient vehicles and new, environmentally sound infrastructure.

To recognize Americans who work in transportation and who contribute to our Nation's prosperity, defense, and progress, the United States Congress, by joint resolution approved May 16, 1957, as amended, (36 U.S.C. 120), has designated the third Friday in May of each year as "National Defense Transportation Day," and, by joint resolution approved May 14, 1962, as amended, (36 U.S.C. 133), declared that the week during which that Friday falls be designated as "National Transportation Week."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 17, 2002, as National Defense Transportation Day and May 12 through May 18, 2002, as National Transportation Week. I encourage all Americans to recognize how our modern transportation system has enhanced our economy and contributed to our freedom.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-sixth.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., May 14, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on May 15. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address
May 11, 2002

Good morning. Next week the United States House of Representatives is scheduled to debate a welfare reform plan that will touch the lives of millions of Americans. The last time Congress reformed welfare, in 1996, it put millions of Americans on the path to better lives.

Because of work requirements and time-limited benefits, welfare caseloads have dropped by more than half. Today, 5.4 million fewer people live in poverty, including 2.8 million fewer children than in 1996. Yet, the real success of welfare reform is not found in the number of caseloads that have been cut but in the number of lives that have been changed.

I've traveled all across our Nation, and I've met people whose lives have been improved because of welfare reform. I have heard inspiring stories of hope and dignity and hard work and personal achievement. Yet, there are still millions of Americans trapped in dependence, without jobs and the dignity they bring. And now Congress must take the next necessary steps in welfare reform.

Compassionate welfare reform should encourage strong families. Strong marriages and stable families are good for children, so stable families should be a central aim of welfare policy. Under my plan, up to \$300 million per year will be available to States to support good private and public programs that counsel willing couples on building a healthy respect for marriage.

Compassionate welfare reform must allow States greater flexibility in spending welfare money. Today, confusing and conflicting regulations are keeping people from getting help. My proposal would give States the freedom to redesign how Federal programs operate in their States. This will allow States to be more innovative in providing better job training, housing, and nutrition programs, and better childcare services to low-income families.

Most of all, compassionate welfare reform must encourage more and more Americans to find the independence of a job. Today, States on average must require work of only 5 percent of adults getting welfare. I am proposing that every State be required within 5 years to have 70 percent of welfare recipients working or being trained to work at least 40 hours a week. These work requirements must be applied carefully and compassionately.

Because many on welfare need new skills, my plan allows States to combine work with up to 2 days each week of education and job training. Our proposal allows for 3 months

in full-time drug rehabilitation or job training, and adolescent mothers can meet their work requirements by attending high school. A work requirement is not a penalty; it is the pathway to independence and self-respect. For former welfare recipients, this path has led to a new and better life.

When I was in North Carolina earlier this year, I met Ella Currence, a mother of four who was on welfare for 7 years. She knew change would be difficult, but she also knew change was best. Ella began participating in the State's Work First Program. She has been working for the last 5 years, and she put her life in order. Ella says, "You can do anything you want to do if you put your mind to it." This is the spirit and confidence encouraged by work.

Everyone in America benefits from compassionate welfare reform. Former welfare recipients gain new hope and know the independence and dignity of an honest day's work. As our recovery continues, business will need more motivated and trained workers. Good welfare reform laws can break dependency and help the American economy.

My administration has worked closely with Congress in writing the new welfare legislation. It's an excellent bill that will provide hope and promise, dignity and opportunity to millions of Americans. I urge the House to pass it and the Senate to then act on it.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:10 a.m. on May 9 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 11. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 10 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on Signing the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002

May 13, 2002

The President. Good morning, and welcome to Washington's grand old building, the Eisenhower Executive Office Building—or as we now call it, the Ike. [Laughter]